

Message Text

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ACTION SIG-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 W
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O 161315Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL GENOA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2239
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENOA 0281

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASIG
SUBJECT: POST MEMORANDUM FOR FS INSPECTORS - GENOA

REF: STATE 112994

SUMMARY: BARELY 18 MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE I PREPARED THE
LAST POST MEMORANDUM ON THE GENOA CONSULAR DISTRICT IN
CONNECTION WITH THE PREVIOUS INSPECTION OF NOVEMBER 1976.
DURING THAT TIME OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND WORKLOAD HAVE
INCREASED, AS HAVE THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL
PROBLEMS THAT BEDEVIL ITALY, AS WELL AS THIS REGION. OUR
MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES, HOWEVER, HAVE DECREASED OR ARE
BEING THREATENED TO BE REDUCED TO THE POINT WHERE THEY
WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET EVEN THE MINIMUM STATUTORY
REQUIREMENTS AND POLICY OBJECTIVES THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND
THE MISSION HAS ASSIGNED TO US. IN ALL CANDOR I MUST
RESPECTFULLY WARN THAT ANY FURTHER HUMAN OR
MATERIAL REDUCTION WILL BE SELF-DEFEATING AND WILL
SERIOUSLY HINDER OUR OPERATION IN LIGURIA. THE EMBASSY IS
SATISFIED THAT THIS POST UNDER MY DIRECTION, HAS FULLY MET
THE OBJECTIVES LEVIED ON US AND THAT, IN ADDITION, THE PRINCIPAL
OFFICER HAS BEEN "EXTRAORDINARILY HELPFUL TO THE
AMBASSADOR, THE DCM, AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS IN
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ANALYZING ITALIAN EVENTS AND TRENDS AND CONTRIBUTING POLICY
RECOMMENDATION". I STILL BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT MUCH MORE
CAN BE DONE BY THIS POST TO ASSURE THE SAFEGUARD AND
PROMOTION OF AMERICAN POLITICAL, SECURITY, COMMERCIAL AND
CULTURAL INTERESTS IN THIS AREA. TO DO SO EFFECTIVELY,
HOWEVER, WE NEED MORE AND NOT LESS RESOURCES. I SHALL WELCOME
THE OPPORTUNITY PERSONALLY TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE

INSPECTORS THE PROBLEMS AND ISSUES THAT MORE SERIOUSLY AFFECT OUR WORK HERE, TO MAKE THE NECESSARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THEIR RESOLUTION, AND HOPEFULLY TO ENLIST THEIR SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

1. PICTURE OF THE DISTRICT.

THE GENOA CONSULAR DISTRICT IS THE THIRD SIDE OF THE IMPORTANT DYNAMIC "INDUSTRIAL TRIANGLE" OF NORTHERN ITALY. IT IS THE CENTER OF ITALY'S STEEL PRODUCTION AND HEADQUARTERS OF THE STATE-OWNED STEEL GIANT, ITALSIDER. GENOA IS THE HEADQUARTERS AND MAIN INDUSTRIAL PLANT OF ANSALDO, THE TOP NUCLEAR AND SOLAR ENERGY FIRM IN ITALY AND CAN RIGHTLY CLAIM ITS TITLE AS "THE ENERGY CAPITAL OF ITALY".

GENOA IS ALSO THE FIRST PORT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BY VALUE AND THE SECOND BY VOLUME (SECOND ONLY TO MARSEILLES). IT IS, QUITE NATURALLY, THE HEADQUARTERS OF MANY OF THE US SHIPPING FIRMS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. IT HAS THE LARGEST CONSULAR REPRESENTATION OF ANY POST IN ITALY AND IN MEDITERRANEAN, WITH 55 CONSULATES GENERAL OR CONSULATES OF WHICH 25 HEADED AND STAFFED BY CAREER CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. FINALLY, GENOA IS THE CITY IN ITALY FOR WHICH AMERICANS HAVE THE CLOSEST CULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL AFFINITY (THE MYTHOLOGY OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, YOU KNOW). GENOA IS ONE OF THE MAJOR MEDITERRANEAN PORT OF CALL FOR THE US NAVY, GETTING SOME 30-ODD VISITS FROM ALL SORTS OF NAVAL CONFIDENTIAL

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UNITS, FROM CARRIERS TO PT BOATS EVERY YEAR. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE GENOA CONSULAR DISTRICT HAS AN AMERICAN RESIDENT COMMUNITY OF MORE THAN 3500 AMERICANS. LIGURIA IS ALSO A FAVORITE STOPPING POINT FOR MANY VISITING AMERICAN TOURISTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE SUMMER TIME WHEN SOME 35,000 AMERICANS VISIT THE AREA.

2. STATE OF RELATIONS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LOCAL ELECTION OF JULY 1975, THE REGION OF LIGURIA AND THREE OF ITS FOUR PROVINCES ARE UNDER LEFTIST (COMMUNIST/SOCIALIST) RULE. THIS PLACES THE CONSULATE IN AN EXTREMELY DELICATE AND SENSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LEFTIST AUTHORITIES. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE TO IT THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE WORK PERFORMED AT THE POST ARE CARRIED OUT AND SAFEGUARDED ACCORDING TO THE POLICY DIRECTIVES OF THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH LEFTIST ADMINISTRATIONS. THE POST MUST BE ALERT TO ALL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND INCIDENTS THAT MAY AFFECT OUR INTEREST AND OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES IN LIGURIA AND BY EXTENSION, TO ITALY. POST BELIEVES THAT IT HAS ACHIEVED SUFFICIENT COOPER-

ATION WITH THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION TO MEET THESE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES IN LIGURIA. THIS HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY TRUE IN OUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT AMERICAN FIRMS IN DIFFICULTY IN THE AREAS AND TO ASSURE THE SMOOTHNESS OF THE MANY US NAVY VISITS TO GENOA AND TO OTHER CITIES IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT.

3. PROBLEMS.

THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY IMPRESSED ON BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PUBLIC OPINION THE GRAVITY AND MAGNITUDE OF THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL PROBLEMS THAT FACE ITALY TODAY. THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME, THEREFORE, TO ENGAGE IN THE LITANY OF THESE ISSUES AND PROBLEMS, EXCEPT PERHAPS TO POINT OUT THAT GENOA IS REPUTED TO BE THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE RED BRIGADE TERRORISTS
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IN ITALY. WHETHER OR NOT THIS REPUTATION IS ACCURATE IN ALL ITS DETAILS, IT IS A FACT THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE MANY NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THESE MURDERERS ARE FIRST TRIED OUT IN GENOA BEFORE BEING FARMED OUT ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 W
-----114532 161726Z /41

O 161315Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSLUL GENOA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2240
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENOA 0281

4. EVALUATION OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND POLICIES.

WHEN I WAS ASSIGNED TO GENOA IN JULY 1976, MY MARCHING ORDERS WERE TO "PUT GENOA BACK ON THE MAP" BY RE-ESTABLISHING AND/OR STRENGTHENING THE AMERICAN POLITICAL AND CULTURAL PRESENCE IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT. AS I INDICATED IN THE SUMMARY, I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THIS PRIMARY

OBJECTIVE. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE, CAN BE DONE, AND WILL BE DONE, PROVIDED WE ARE GIVEN THE WHEREWITHAL.

B. ILLUSTRATIVE ISSUES

POST PROBLEMS - IN MY LAST POST MEMORANDUM FOR THE INSPECTORS OF OCTOBER 28, 1976, I SINGLED OUT 3 PROBLEMS THAT HAD TO BE FACED AND RESOLVED BEFORE I COULD MOVE EFFECTIVELY TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY DIRECTIVES I HAD RECEIVED FROM THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT.

1. I SAID, THEN, THAT I NEEDED A MODERN, SOPHISTICATED, SECURE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM "QUICKLY". I DID FINALLY GET, IN JULY 1977, A SECURE, EFFICIENT HW-28 COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (ITS DUPLICATE BACK-UP SYSTEM ARRIVED ONLY THE OTHER DAY, ON MAY 12, 1978).

2. I SAID THAT I NEEDED AN AMERICAN SECRETARY/COMMUNICATOR TO TAKE CARE OF THE CLASSIFIED WORKLOAD AND ITS TRANSMISSION
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AND RECEPTION "DESPERATELY". I AM STILL WITHOUT AN AMERICAN COMMUNICATOR/SECRETARY. ONE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED AND WILL, HOPEFULLY, ARRIVE IN MID-JULY. IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT FOR THIS I MAY HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE OF LETTING GO OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER POSITION, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE THE SECRETARY ASSIGNED HAS HAD, IN ADDITION TO HER EXPERIENCE AS SECRETARY/COMMUNICATOR, ALSO ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE. (I RESPECTFULLY, BUT STRONGLY URGE THAT THE INSPECTOR SUPPORT MY REQUEST FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THIS IMPORTANT POSITION.) DURING THE ABSENCE OF SUCH A SECRETARY, ALL MY CLASSIFIED COMMUNICATION WORK HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE CONSULAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS OF THIS POST. THEY HAVE DONE SO GRACIOUSLY AND, TO THEIR CREDIT, COMPETENTLY, OFTEN ON THEIR OWN TIME AND ALWAYS WITHOUT COMPENSATION. THIS SORT OF SITUATION IS EXEMPLARY OF THE CONDUCT AND DEDICATION OF FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL BUT IS NOT AN EFFICIENT OR ECONOMICAL WAY TO RUN A CONSULAR OPERATION IN ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AND SENSITIVE REGIONS OF ITALY.

3. I URGENTLY REQUESTED, AND THE INSPECTORS, THE EMBASSY AND USIA/WASHINGTON FULLY SUPPORTED THE REQUEST, THAT I BE ASSIGNED A FULL-TIME BRANCH PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER (BPAO) TO ASSIST ME IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES IN LIGURIA. THE BPAO PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO TURIN HAS BEEN TASKED WITH THE ADDED RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING SOME COVERAGE AND ASSISTANCE TO THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT. AGAIN, A PART TIME BPAO, VISITING THIS DISTRICT 5 OR 6 TIMES A MONTH, IS BETTER THAN NOTHING, BUT IT IS EFINITELY NOT REPEAT NOT, WHAT I HAD REQUESTED AND WHAT I FIRMLY BELIEVE IS

NEEDED TO DO THE SORT OF WORK THAT THE AMBASSADOR IN PARTICULAR
WOULD LIKE TO SEE DONE IN THIS FIELD.

COMMENT: I SHALL, OF COURSE, BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE
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INSPECTORS, AND IN DETAIL, OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES AND
PROBLEMS AT THE TIME OF INSPECTION IN JUNE.DISCIULLO

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